THE LAC SEUL MANAGEMENT PLAN

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SIOUX LOOKOUT DISTRICT

Ontario
Ministry of Natural Resources
Vincent G. Kerrio
Minister

Lac Seul Management Plan

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FOREWORD

The Lac Seul Management Plan was approved in June, 1984. Since that time the Ministry of Natural Resources has received a number of different types of proposals for development of Crown land on Lac Seul. Some of these proposals dealt with activities that were not permitted in the original plan. Others related to uses which had not been clearly addressed in the management plan. It became necessary for the Ministry of Natural Resources to review and clarify its position on these matters.

To accomplish this it was necessary to update the fisheries data base used to prepare the original Lac Seul Management Plan. The result of fisheries studies conducted in 1985 indicated that, on a lake wide basis, walleye were being harvested above their allowable harvest levels. A subsequent angler creel census conducted in 1986 indicated that the harvest of walleye was greater than that of 1985.

Ministry of Natural Resources staff reaffirmed that it was inappropriate to allow additional development on Lac Seul which could increase the harvest of walleye. Ministry of Natural Resources staff also believed it necessary to implement additional management techniques to maintain the existing high quality sport fishery on the lake.

Sections One, Two and Three of this plan contain the findings and recommendations of the original Lac Seul Management Plan. Sections Four and Five contain the findings and recommendations resulting from studies conducted in 1985 and 1986. Section Four also outlines the public consultation program that was carried out in the review of this plan.

Approved: _____
District Manager

Approved: _____
Regional Director

SPRING 1988

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SECTION ONE - INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Study Area

Lac Seul is located in Northwestern Ontario, approximately 400 kilometres northwest of Thunder Bay and 200 kilometres northeast of Kenora. It is situated in the Ministry of Natural Resources Northwestern Administrative Region and it falls under the jurisdiction of three MNR administrative districts: Sioux Lookout, Red Lake and Dryden. The major portion of the lake lies within the Sioux Lookout District (See Map 1).

Lac Seul is a crescent shaped reservoir approximately 150 kilometres long. The lake consists of a complex system of open water, bays, narrow channels and islands, and it has a surface area of approximately 1,450 km_2. It is the second largest lake contained entirely within the Province of Ontario (Usher and Michalski, 1982). (A detailed description of the physiography of the Lac Seul area can be obtained from Hough, Stansbury and Michalski, 1981).

1.2 The Problem

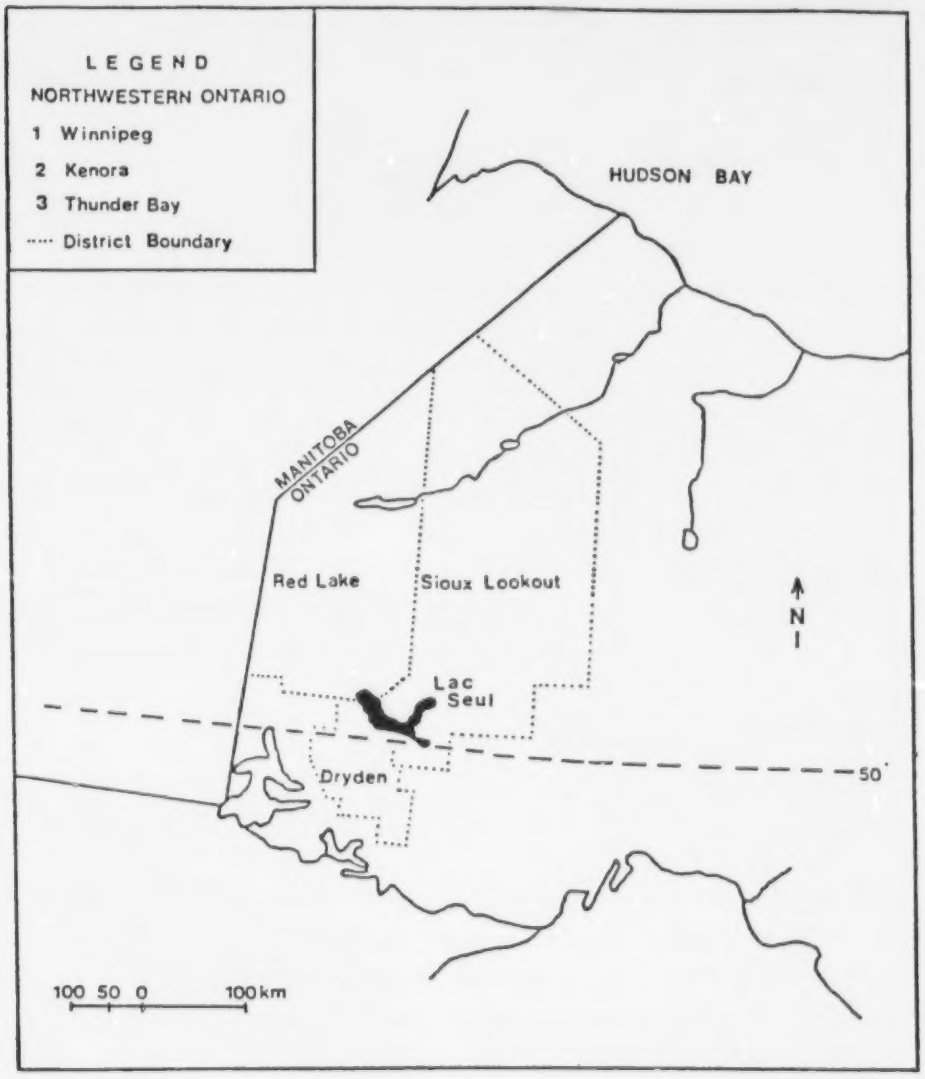
Lac Seul had started to display signs that are charateristic of a lake under stress. Fishing success had declined, fishing pressure from a variety of user groups had increased, conflicts between the various user groups had increased and fish populations had demonstrated early signs of over-exploitation.

While the existing quality of the sport fishery was still good, it appeared likely that this quality would continue to decline in the future unless overall management strategies for the lake were developed and implemented.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the management plan are to:

- Recognize and protect the remote recreational character of the lake;



Map 1: General Location of Lac Seul in Northwestern Ontario

- Maintain the existing high quality sport fishery on the lake;

- Balance annual fish harvest with annual fish productivity within each of the lake's 7 management zones;

- Work within the framework of the Dryden District Land Use Guidelines and the draft West Patricia Land Use Guidelines. *

1.4 Scope of the Study

The focus of attention was on Lac Seul and the shoreline immediately surrounding it. Efforts were concentrated on developing management strategies that would protect the existing character of the lake and maintain its high quality sport fishery.

One of the most important uses of Lac Seul is its role in the generation of power, both at the Ontario Hydro dam at Ear Falls and at the seven hydro electric power stations located further downstream between Ear Falls and Lake Winnipeg. The regulation of water levels for power generation purposes has a significant effect on the other users of the lake and fluctuating water levels are known to be a concern to these users. Water levels on Lac Seul, however, are not under MNR's control. They are regulated by the Lake of the Woods Control Board, an agency which operates independently (Hough, Stansbury and Michalski, 1981). Therefore, although this issue was considered to be important, it was also considered to be beyond the scope of the management plan.

1.5 Study Background

Lac Seul is a prime recreational lake. It is important to the residents of the communities located close to Lac Seul (Sioux Lookout, Ear Falls, Hudson and Perrault Falls) and to the tourism

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*The West Patricia Planning Area is comprised of the Red Lake and Sioux Lookout Districts and a portion of the Geraldton District north of the Albany River.

industry. Local residents use the lake for angling, cottaging and overnight camping. The lake is important to the tourism industry because of the remote, wilderness character it offers. Main base lodges, outpost camps, boat caches and houseboats are all located on the lake.

The Lac Seul Indian Reserve is located on Lac Seul and a significant portion of the lake's shoreline falls within the Reserve (Hough, Stansbury and Michalski, 1981). Approximately 375 members of the Lac Seul Band live in three communities which are spread out over the reserve. The lake is the source of an important domestic food supply for the Band members. The Band has also indicated that it is exploring the feasibility of establishing a tourism facility on the reserve which will be dependent on the lake's sport fishery.

As well, Lac Seul has an active commercial fishery. Four commercial fishing blocks spread out over the western and central portion of the lake have been licenced to residents of the area. The main species commercially fished is whitefish.

Since the mid 1970's there have been signs that the Lac Seul sport fishery is under some stress. There has been a notable decline in the trophy pike fishery. There has also been a decline in the quality of the walleye fishery in some areas of the lake - especially those areas closest to populated areas and access points (Weilandt, 1982). This decline in fishing quality has led to a growing public concern about the health of the lake's fishery. Since the late 1970's there has also been mounting public pressure for MNR to take some action to ensure that Lac Seul's remote character and high quality fishery were maintained.

During the late 1970's all MNR administrative districts across the Province were engaged in a detailed land use planning program. The purpose of the planning was to identify the appropriate land and water areas where the various Ministry programs would be carried out, to the year 2000. Each district prepared detailed management guidelines which would be applied to specific land use areas within the district.

Due to the significance of Lac Seul, MNR decided to commission a study for the lake to compliment the land use planning program being

carried out at that time. The results of the planning study were to be incorporated into the land use guidelines developed for the three administrative districts (Sioux Lookout, Red Lake, Dryden) involved with Lac Seul. In 1978 MNR retained the consulting firm of Hough, Stnasbury and Michalski Ltd. to carry out this planning study. The constulstant's report, entitled Alternative Management Strategies for Lac Seul, was completed in 1981 and provided MNR with up-to-date information on the area's resources and with detailed resource management strategies for the area.

One of the more significant findings of the consultant's report concerned the lake's sport fishery. Fisheries data gathered in 1979 indicated that, for the entire lake, total annual harvest was about equal to total annual productivity for both walleye and northern pike. This data, however, also indicated that in certain areas of Lac Seul, walleye and northern pike were being overharvested while in other areas of the lake additional sport fishing opportunities were availabe. (Hough, Stansbury and Michalski Ltd., 1981).

In 1980 a significant event relative to Lac Seul occurred in the Sioux Lookout District. That year McKenzie Forest Products Limited, which operates a sawmill in Hudson, submitted a proposal to extend the Vermilion River Road to the north shore of Lac Seul to access stands of mature timber. Four alternative routes for the road were developed and an extensive public review of the routes was undertaken.

The route that was most favoured by the public was the only route that did not create direct road access to Lac Seul. Public input stated that this route was preferred because it protected the remote recreational character of the lake. Both the Ontario and Federal Governments, which jointly funded the construction of the road, and McKenzie Forest Products Limited, the company harvesting the timber, committed themselves to considerable extra construction and hauling costs to respect this public wish.

This event was important in shaping the future role that Lac Seul would take because since that time any development proposals that could affect Lac Seul have been evaluated for the effect they might

have on the remote recreational character of the lake.

In 1983 the Dryden District Land Use Guidelines were approved and the draft West Patricia Land Use Guidelines (which included Red Lake and Sioux Lookout Districts) were completed. The development of these guidelines involved a considerable amount of public review and discussion, including open houses and meetings with special interest groups. Through this consultation program, the public reaffirmed its desire to see the lake remain a remote recreational area and the resulting guidelines recognized this fact. The guidelines further recommended that a management plan be prepared for Lac Seul.

SECTION TWO - THE PLANNING PROCESS

2.1 The Steering Committee

In the spring of 1983 the MNR Regional Director for the Northwestern Region, Mr. D.R. Johnston, appointed a Lac Seul Steering Committee to develop a Lake Management Plan.

The following persons were appointed to the Steering Committee:

A. J. Stewart, Chairperson	District Manager Sioux Lookout District
E. W. Everley	District Manager Red Lake District
G. M. Tupling	District Manager Dryden District
R. H. Hanlan	Senior Planner Northwestern Region
N. Ward	Regional Fisheries Biologist Northwestern Region

R. Forster, District Planner, Sioux Lookout District, served as Secretary to the Steering Committee.

2.2 Direction From Land Use Guidelines

The Steering Committee reviewed the Land Use Area descriptions for Lac Seul contained in the Dryden District and Draft West Patricia Land Use Guidelines, in order to determine the direction to be taken in developing a Management Plan for Lac Seul. The Steering Committee confirmed that Lac Seul would be recognized and promoted as a prime remote recreational area. It was also decided that the Lac Seul Management Plan would focus on the lake and the surrounding shoreline.

2.3 Data Update

A number of different studies have been conducted on Lac Seul over the past 10 years. These studies have yielded a wide variety of data*. In September 1983 MNR fisheries staff from Red Lake and Sioux Lookout Districts and the Kenora Regional Office reviewed and updated all fisheries data relating to the lake to ensure that it was the best information available, (Ward Report, 1983).

2.3.1. Management Zone Development

In the planning study carried out by Hough, Stansbury and Michalski, Lac Seul had been divided into 23 separate basins on the basis of water chemistry, water temperature and water depths. All 23 basins demonstrated distinct water quality characteristics but not necessarily distinct populations of fish (Hough, Stansbury and Michalski, 1981). MNR staff felt that while these basins were useful for research purposes, they were generally too small for the purpose of developing broad management strategies. Therefore, the basins were amalgamated into seven management zones based on generally similar characteristics such as water chemistry.

2.3.2 Species Partitioning

In determining fish production estimates on a body of water, the first step is to determine the type of fish community that exists there. Then the percentage that each individual species of fish contributes to the total fish population must be estimated. Lac Seul has a whitefish/northern pike/ walleye fish community type. Best estimates indicate walleye make up 26% of this community, northern pike 15% and whitefish 22%.

The technical term for this calculation is "species partitioning". (For a detailed explanation of species partitioning see Strategic Planning for Ontario Fisheries, Working Group 12, Partitioning Yield estimates from the morphoedaphic index into individual species yields. O.M.N.R.)

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*See References for a listing of previous studies.

2.3.3 Annual Allowable Harvest

The annual allowable harvest for each of the seven management zones was calculated. The data used was based on information provided by Hough, Stansbury and Michalski (1981), but it was modified to reflect MNR's species partitioning for whitefish/northern pike/walleye fish community types (McGovern, 1983). This data was also supplemented with information obtained from Marshall's 1981 Summer Creel Census and MNR's 1983 Winter creel census on Adamhay Lake (See Table 1.

It was noted that with the exception of the more recent and limited data obtained from the 1981 and 1983 creel censuses, all other harvest data was based on the 1979 creel census carried out by Hough, Stansbury and Michalski. It was a general observation of district Fish and Wildlife field staff that use on Lac Seul has increased since 1979, meaning that harvest pressure is likely greater than that shown in Table 1.

It was also agreed however, that the information contained in Table 1 was the best information available and it would be the information used to develop management strategies for Lac Seul.

2.4 Givens and Resource Management Tools

Before MNR could proceed with the development of management strategies for Lac Seul, factors that were not under its control, and policies and programs which had been previously approved and were already in place had to be considered. These factors were divided into two categories:

i) Givens - which would influence the selection of management strategies;

ii) Resource Management Tools - which would form the basis for developing and implementing management strategies.

2.4.1 Givens

- The Land Use Guidelines determine which land use activities are

TABLE 1

ANNUAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST* AND 1979 SPORT AND COMMERCIAL HARVEST DATA (KILOGRAMS)

ZONE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL
Walleye Annual Allowable Harvest	29,454	29,708	3,753	15,156	5,818	11,833	14,280	110,002
Sport Harvest	18,457	10,717	14,213	21,068	5,733**	13,136	5,366***	88,690
Commercial Harvest	-	4,507	-	-	-	4,618	-	9,125
Difference	10,997	14,484	-10,468	-5,912	85	-5,921	8,914	12,187
Northern Pike Annual Allowable Harvest	17,108	17,139	2,165	8,744	3,357	6,827	8,238	63,578
Sport Harvest	52,219	9,534	5,147	18,298	3,496**	5,096	1,281	95,071
Commercial Harvest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difference	-35,111	7,605	-2,982	-9,554	-139	1,731	6,957	-31,493
Whitefish Annual Allowable Harvest	25,092	25,138	3,176	12,824	4,923	10,012	12,083	93,248
Commercial Harvest	20,866	25,000	-	-	-	9,090	-	63,908
Difference	4,226	138	3,176	12,824	4,923	922	12,083	38,292

* Based on N.W. Region partitioning criteria. Walleye.26: Northern Pike .15: Whitefish .22 (expressed as a percentage of total fish population)

** Includes data from Marshall Creel Census, 1981

*** Includes data from Adamhay Winter Creel Survey, 1983

acceptable for the Lac Seul Area;

- MNR has no direct control over water levels on Lac Seul;

- Lac Seul is a traditional domestic food source for the Lac Seul Band. In accordance with government policy this traditional use will continue to be protected.

- The Lac Seul Band is working towards developing an economic base for their community. The lake management plan will recognize that a portion of the lake's sport fishery will be made available to the Band to support their economic development plan;

- An area of concern has been established around Lac Seul. The prescription for this area of concern stipulates no timber harvesting within 120 metres of the shoreline of Lac Seul.

- Construction of primary and secondary roads within 650 metres of Lac Seul is restricted;

- Lac Seul will continue to support both a sport fishery and a commercial fishery;

- Houseboats are not regulated at the present time;

- Future disposition of Crown land will be in accordance with the remote recreational character of the lake;

2.4.2 Resource Management Tools

a. Land Use Permit

A permit which authorizes use of Crown land. Conditions can be attached to the permit including size and type of structure, number of people allowed to use structure, duration of use, etc.

b. Crown Land Recreation Program

Through this trial program MNR can control camping on Crown land

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* See Appendix A for an explanation of an Area of Concern

by non-residents. Non-residents camping activity can be redirected away from areas where the Ministry has determined that the resources (fish, moose, bear, etc.) are over-utilized.

c. Boat Cache Program

This trial program is designed to control all boats left unattended on Crown land. Non-residents of Canada cannot leave boats unattended on Crown land. Boats belonging to commercial tourist operators, private recreationalists and resource harvesters (trappers, etc.) must be registered with MNR. Boat caches may be relocated, eliminated or encouraged, based on the availability of sport fish.

d. Fish Sanctuary

Fish sanctuaries can be established to protect spawning areas.

e. Season Adjustments

Season adjustments can control the opening and/or closing of the fishing season. This has the potential to increase or decrease the harvest of fish.

f. Creel Limits

Creel limits control the number, size or species of fish that can legally be taken e.g. 6 walleye per day reduced to 4 per day, etc.

g. Dialogue and Discussion

No person or group of people wishes to harm the lake or its resources. Open and honest discussion can often lead to co-operation among users and accomplish what laws and rules cannot.

2.5 Public Participation

Once all the data has been reviewed, the givens identified and the management tools determined, the next step was to develop a public participation program in order to identify the concerns the public had regarding Lac Seul.

2.5.1 Program Design

There are a number of different groups using Lac Seul and their degree of interest in Lac Seul varies considerably. The Steering Committee therefore decided to adopt a "3 level" approach to the public participation program developed for the Lac Seul Management Plan.

Level 1: Must Be Involved.
People in this group included lodge owners, outpost camp operators, commercial fishermen, houseboat operators, fly-in air service operators and officials of the forest products industry.

People in this group were automatically sent a set of information packages.

Level 2: Should Be Involved.
People in this group included remote cottagers, patented land owners and heads of local recreation associations and municipal associations.

People in this group were sent a letter informing them about the Lac Seul Management Plan. They were invited to contact MNR to obtain more detailed information about the management plan and to become involved in the planning process.

Level 3: May Wish to Be Involved.
This group included local residents of the area, who use Lac Seul for angling and other types of outdoor recreation.
Newspaper advertisements were placed in local newspapers (Dryden Observer, Northwest Explorer), informing the public that MNR was developing a management plan for Lac Seul. People were invited to contact MNR to obtain detailed information and to become involved in the planning process.

A key feature of the public participation program was to send the packages of background information out at intervals. This was done in order to ensure that people would not be overwhelmed with a large volume of information at one time.

Three packages of information were sent out:

#1 Explanation of the program. Existing land use features in the Lac Seul area.

#2 Future timber allocations in areas near Lac Seul.

#3 Fisheries information. Data concerning annual sport fish productivity and annual sport fish harvest, and commercial fisheries information.

This information was followed up by a questionnaire. In total eighty sets of information were distributed to the public.

2.5.2 Meetings

In addition to input received through questionnaires, MNR staff met with many individuals and associations. Outlined below is a list of user groups who took advantage of these opportunities to voice their concerns in greater detail:

Tourist Associations

- Sioux Lookout - Hudson
- Ear Falls - Perrault Falls
- Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Representative
- Kenora District Campowners Association Executive

Individual Tourist Operators

- Lodge Owners
- Outpost Camp Operators
- Houseboat Operators
- Local Anglers
- Commercial Fishermen
- Lac Seul Indian Band

2.5.3 Questionnaire Results:

80 questionnaires were mailed out

49 questionnaires were returned

This represents a response rate of 61%.

A summary of questionnaire responses is contained in Appendix B.

In general, residents from all areas of the lake reaffirmed their desire to see Lac Seul managed as a remote recreational lake. They did not want to see additional road access to Lac Seul created.

They also wanted the high quality of sport fishery maintained. There was a split opinion on the idea of reducing creel limits. Some local residents felt that MNR should look at reducing creel limits. Tourist operators were generally opposed to reducing creel limits at this time. They believed that MNR should implement the other suggested management strategies first. If future studies indicated that the quality of the fishery was still declining, then and only then should a reduction in creel limits be considered.

With regard to the question of additional development on Lac Seul, again there was a difference of opinion. Some people were opposed to any type of new development that would increase sport fishing pressure. Others were in favour of limited, strictly controlled development in line with the remote character of the lake. These people also felt that local residents should be given preference in undertaking any new commercial development. There were also some local residents who wished to see additional remote cottages made available on Lac Seul.

2.5.4 Major Issues

Listed below in order of priority are the major issues identified by the public;

- General concern for the quality of the sport fishery;

- Uncontrolled camping on Crown land by non-residents;

- Existance of commercial fishing quotas for walleye;

- Decline of the trophy northern pike fishery;

- A small number of remote cottages should be made available on the lake.

- Lack of control over the location and number of houseboats operating on the lake;

- Lack of control over the location and number of boat caches on the lake;

- A need for additional sanctuaries to protect spawning areas;

- A need to continue to strictly control road access in the vicinity of Lac Seul;

- The potential loss of wood fibre to the forest products industry in areas adjacent to the shoreline due to access road restrictions;

SECTION THREE - THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

3.1 Introduction

During the review of input received by the public it was apparent that most people had identified some concerns which were specific to one or two zones. Other concerns were more broadly based and related to the entire lake.

During the development of management strategies for Lac Seul, MNR initally prepared a series of lake wide recommendations. Some of these were then used as a basis for developing more specific recommendations, which addressed the issues that had been identified for each zone.

Listed below are the Lake Wide Recommendations that were developed. These are followed by the recommendations developed for each of the seven management zones. The format for the zone recommendations consists of four parts:

a. Area Description
This identifies the location of the zone, the level of development and the present use.

b. MNR Assessment
This provides an assessment of the zones fishery i.e. whether the zone is overharvested or whether additional sport fishing opportunities are available.

c. Issues
This summarizes the major issues that were identified by the public for each zone.

d. Recommendations
This lists the specific recommendations that were developed by the Steering Committee to deal with the zone issues.

3.2 Lake Wide Recommendations

- Develop trophy regulations for northern pike, for Lac Seul;

- Establish a walleye sanctuary network for the lake;

- Negotiate the removal of walleye quotas from commercial fishing licences in Zones 2 and 6;

- Encourage the development of houseboat regulations;

- Develop a Crown land camping network to control non-resident campers on Lac Seul;

- Control location and number of commercial boat caches on Lac Seul through enforcement of Boat Cache Policy;

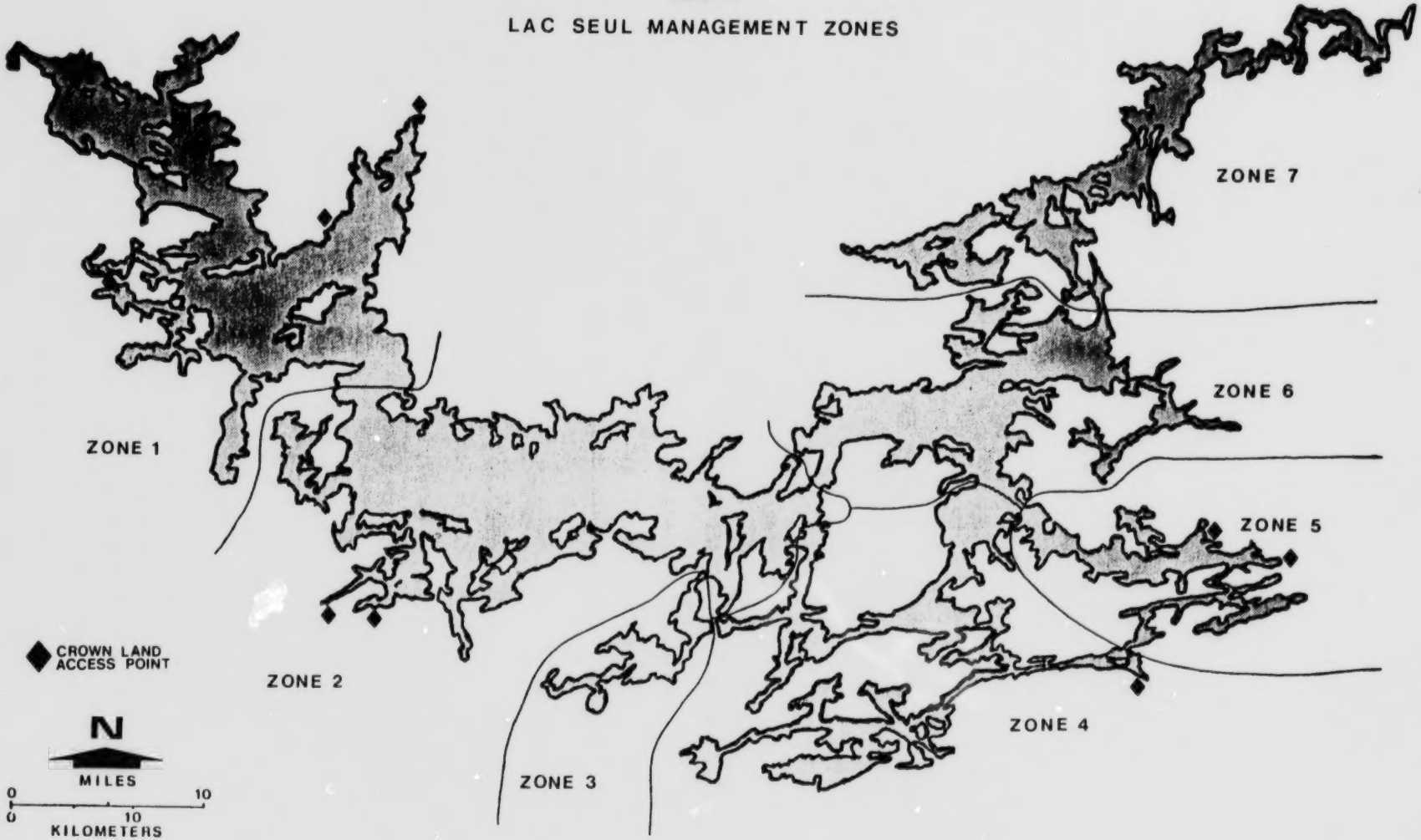
- Site specific development proposals will be reviewed on an individual basis. Any future disposition of Crown land must be in accordance with the remote recreational character of the lake;

- Access road development in the vicinity of Lac Seul will continue to be restricted.

3.3 INDIVIDUAL MANAGEMENT ZONE RECOMMENDATIONS

MAP 2

LAC SEUL MANAGEMENT ZONES



ZONE 1

a. Area Description

Zone 1 extends from the Ear Falls - Goldpines area southeasterly to just beyond Manitoba Point. It includes both McKenzie Bay and South Inlet.

This zone contains 16 main base lodges, 2 outpost camps, 2 trapper cabins, several private residences and 1 known commercial boat cache. It is heavily fished by residents of Ear Falls and non-residents. Zone 1 is also important to the tourist industry as a "day use" area. Non-residents camp on Crown land but the amount of camping that takes place is not considered to be significant. Commercial fishing for whitefish also occurs.

b. MNR Assessment

The walleye population is increasing slowly, but there is no room for additional harvest at this time. The northern pike population appears to be stable but there are no additional harvest opportunities available at this time.

c. Issues (Identified by public)

There is a need to restrict the development of additional fisheries based tourism facilities on Crown land.

Sanctuaries should be established in selected areas of the zone in order to protect spawning populations.

Regulations should be developed for northern pike, in order to revive the trophy pike fishery.

Non-resident camping on Crown land should be restricted.

A limited number of remote cottage sites should be made available on the lake.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches:	Additional commercial boat caches will not be permitted on Crown land. Any unauthorized boat caches will be removed.
Commercial Fishing:	Commercial fishing of whitefish will continue to be permitted. Whitefish quotas will not be increased.
Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited.
Fish Sanctuary:	A fish sanctuary will be established in the west end of Zone 1.
Houseboats:	Houseboat operators will be encouraged not to use this zone.

ZONE 2

a. Area Description

Zone 2 extends from just west of Windigo Point to an area that is slightly east of Lac Seul Post. McIntyre Bay, Williams Bay, Bray Lake and Aldous Bay all lie within this zone.

There is 1 main base lodge, 1 outpost camp and 3 known commercial boat caches in Zone 2. It is fished by residents of Ear Falls and non-residents and it is an important "day use" area to the tourist industry. Crown land camping by non-residents occurs but is not considered to be significant. There is public access to Lac Seul via Williams Creek and Williams Bay. The Lac Seul Band has traditionally used this area as one of the sources of its domestic food supply. Walleye and whitefish are commercially fished. A recommendation has been made to establish a Nature Reserve at Windigo Point.

b. MNR Assessment

There are additional opportunities for harvesting both walleye and northern pike in this zone.

c. Issues (Identified by public)

There is a potential to create an overharvest situation if too many users are shifted into or encouraged to use this zone.

The walleye quota currently allocated to commercial fishing should be eliminated. The walleye would provide a better economic return if caught through the tourism industry.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches: Investigate the possibility of relocating some of the boats cached in Zone 3 into Zone 2. No new commercial boat caches are to be permitted. Any unauthorized boat caches will be removed.

Commercial Fishing:	Commercial fishing of whitefish will be permitted to continue. Whitefish quotas will not be increased. Negotiate the removal of the walleye quota from the existing licence.
Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited. Non-residents will be permitted to camp at designated commercial campsites. Initiate steps to identify and designate commercial campsites in this zone.
Houseboats:	Encourage houseboat operators to shift some of their use from Zones 4 and 6 to Zone 2.

ZONE 3

a. Area Description

Vaughan Lake, located southwest of the Lac Seul Indian Reserve has been designated as Zone 3.

There are 2 outpost camps, 1 remote cottage and 18 known commercial boat caches in this zone. It is heavily fished by both residents and non-residents and it is important to the tourist industry as a "day use" area. There is also some Crown land camping by non-residents. The Lac Seul Indian Band has traditionally used this area as one of the sources of its' domestic food supply. No commercial fishing occurs in this zone.

b. MNR Assessment

Data indicates that there is a significant overharvest of walleye in this zone. Harvests must be reduced to the annual productivity to protect the long term health of the walleye fishery in the zone.

c. Issues (Identified by public)

Non-resident camping on Crown land should be restricted.

There is a potential to create road access to Vaughan Lake via Lynx Lake Road.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches: Remove all commercial boat caches in Zone 3. Investigate the possibility of relocating boat caches to specific sites in Zones 2 and 7 and/or suitable smaller lakes north of Lac Seul. No additional private boat caches to be permitted.

Commercial Fishing: Continue to prohibit commercial fishing.

Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited.
Houseboats:	Encourage houseboat operators not to use this zone.

ZONE 4

a. Area Description

Zone 4 extends from Lower Grassy Bay on the west to Deception Lake. It includes Lost Lake, Deception Bay and a portion of the English River.

There are 3 remote cottages, 72 known commercial boat caches and 10 known private boat caches. There are public access points at Deception Bay and Hudson which receive heavy use. This area is heavily fished by residents of Hudson and Sioux Lookout. It is also an important "day use" area to the tourist industry and several houseboats also operate here. Angling and Crown land camping by non-residents is heavy in this zone. No commercial fishing occurs.

b. MNR Assessment

Both walleye and northern pike are being overharvested in this zone. The annual harvest of both species must be reduced to the annual productivity in order to protect the long term health of the sport fishery.

c. Issues (Identified by public)

Crown land camping by non-residents should be restricted.

There is no control on the houseboats which operate in this zone.

There is a problem of overcrowding at the Deception Bay access point.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches: Permit commercial operators to cache boats at present locations. No additional commercial boat caches to be permitted on Crown land. Any unauthorized boat caches will be removed.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial fishing will continue to be prohibited.

Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited.
Houseboats:	Encourage houseboat operators to use Zone 2 and 7 instead of Zone 4.
Access Point:	Initiate steps to relocate access point at Deception Bay.

ZONE 5

a. Area Description

Zone 5 includes Archer Lake, Sen Bay and Bindo Lake.

There are 17 remote cottages, 14 private boat caches and 2 access points in this zone. It is heavily fished by local residents and there is some "day use" by the tourist industry. There is also significant Crown land camping by non-residents. No commercial fishing occurs in this zone.

b. MNR Assessment

The annual harvest of walleye and northern pike appears to be in balance with the annual productivity. No additional opportunities for harvesting walleye or northern pike are available in this zone.

c. Issues (Identified by public)

Crown land camping by non-residents should be controlled.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches:	No new commercial boat caches will be permitted on Crown land. Any unauthorized boat caches will be removed.
Commercial Fishing:	Commercial fishing will continue to be prohibited.
Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited. Non-residents will be permitted to camp at designated commercial campsites. Initiate steps to identify and designate commercial campsites in this zone.
Houseboats:	Houseboat operators will be encouraged to use Zones 2 and 7 instead of Zone 5.

ZONE 6

a. Area Description

This zone lies northeast of the Lac Seul Indian Reserve. It includes Tuktegweik Bay, Brechin Bay and Scaler Lake.

There are 3 outpost camps, 3 remote cottages, 3 known commercial boat caches and 3 private boat caches in this zone. Local residents and houseboat operators use this area and there is some "day use" by tourist operators. There is a moderate amount of camping on Crown land by non-residents. Walleye and whitefish are commercially fished and there is an established camp for storing and processing the fish caught commercially.

b. MNR Assessment

There is a significant overharvest of walleye in this zone. The annual harvest of walleye must be reduced in order to come into balance with the annual productivity in order to protect the long term health of the walleye fishery.

c. Issues (Identified by public)

There is no control on the number of houseboats that operate in this zone, nor where they locate.

The walleye quota currently allocated to commercial fishing should be eliminated. The walleye would provide a better economic return if caught through the tourism industry.

Crown land camping by non-residents should be controlled.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches: No additional commercial boat caches to be permitted on Crown land. Unauthorized boat caches will be removed.

Commercial Fishing:	Commercial fishing of whitefish to continue to be permitted. Whitefish quota may be permitted to be increased. Negotiate the removal of the walleye quota from the existing licence.
Crown Land Camping:	Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited. Non-residents will be permitted to camp at designated commercial campsites. Initiate steps to identify and designate commercial campsites in this zone.
Houseboats:	Houseboat operators will be encouraged to control the number and location of houseboats in this zone.

ZONE 7

a. Area Description

This zone lies in the northeast portion of the lake. It stretches from Wapesi Bay to Adamhay Lake. It includes Chamberlain Narrows, Brisco Inlet and Gynane Bay.

There is 1 main base lodge, 3 outpost camps, 3 remote cottages and 4 known commercial boat caches in this zone. There is some houseboat use and some tourism "day use" in this area. Local residents use this area including Adamhay Lake for winter fishing. Some Crown land camping by non-residents occurs. The Root River Fish Sanctuary is located in this zone.

b. MNR Assessment

There are additional angling opportunities for both walleye and northern pike in this zone.

c. Issues (Identified by public)

There is a potential to create an overharvest situation in this zone if too many users are shifted into or encouraged to use this zone.

The proposed extension of the duration of the Root River Sanctuary.

d. Recommendations

Boat Caches: Investigate the possibility of relocating some commercial boat caches from Zone 3 into this zone. No new commercial boat caches will be permitted on Crown land. Unauthorized boat caches will be removed.

Commercial Fishing: Continue to prohibit commercial fishing.

Crown Land Camping: Crown land camping by non-residents will be prohibited. Non-residents will be permitted to camp at designated commercial campistes. Initiate steps to

identify and designate commercial campsites in this zone.

Houseboats: Houseboat operators will be encouraged to shift some of their use from Zone 6 to Zone 7.

Fish Sanctuary: Extend the duration of the fish sanctuary. Sanctuary to be in effect from December 1 to June 21.

3.4 Summary

The overall intent of preparing a management plan for Lac Seul was to develop management strategies which would recognize and protect the remote character of the lake and maintain the existing high quality sport fishery on the lake, while working within the framework of the Dryden District and Draft West Patricia Land Use Guidelines.

With the implementation of the recommendations of this management plan:

- The character of the lake will remain "remote"

- The high quality fishing experience will be maintained;

- There will continue to be a good variety and mix of recreational experiences on the lake. These experiences will also be enhanced because conflicts between user groups will be reduced;

- There will be some opportunities for economic development.

This plan will also be in keeping with the land use intent for Lac Seul outlined in the Dryden District Land Use Guidelines and the draft West Patricia Land Use Guidelines.

Based on the best available data the production and harvest of sport fish species in Lac Seul are approximately balanced (this includes the potential tourism development by the Lac Seul Band). As new information is obtained and new management techniques are developed the production - harvest equation may undergo some adjustments. For all practical purposes, however, the use of the sport fishery resource is now at its maximum level.

With present management techniques there are no new development opportunites, based on harvesting sport fish, available on Lac Seul. Existing pressures on the lake and its fishery may be altered or moved in new directions, but no new harvesting pressures will be allowed. Any new pressure on the fishery that is allowed in one area

will be met by a reduction in pressure somewhere else. All those involved with, and concerned about the lake's sport fishery must adjust their attitudes and efforts towards ensuring the production - harvest equation remains in balance. If this fact is ignored the sport fishery and the industries dependent on that fishery will deteriorate.

The Lac Seul Management Plan is dynamic in that it will be reviewed and updated as new data becomes available, new management techniques are developed, and new public direction becomes evident.

4.0 AN UPDATE AND REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

SECTION FOUR - AN UPDATE AND REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

4.1 An Update

The Lac Seul Management Plan contained eight lake wide recommendations. All of these recommendations have been implemented as per the following summary:

1. Develop trophy regulations for northern pike for Lac Seul;

   Since 1986, no person may possess more than one northern pike in excess of 70 cm (total length) from Lac Seul within their possession limit of 6 pike.

2. Establish a walleye sanctuary network for the lake;

   The Root River sanctuary (Adam Hay, Dec. 1 to June 21 inclusive) was put into regulation to protect pre-spawning walleye congregations. Another sanctuary was established at the mouth of the Wenasaga River (April 14 to May 31 inclusive) in the spring of 1986.

3. Negotiate the removal of walleye quotas from commercial fishing licences in Zones 2 and 6;

   In 1984, quotas for walleye were purchased by the Ministry of Natural Resources from commercial fishermen on Lac Seul. The only remaining quotas are for whitefish and herring.

4. Encourage the development of houseboat regulations;

   No additional commercial houseboats providing overnight accommodation for non-residents of Canada will be permitted on Lac Seul beyond those presently recognized (i.e. total 14). Commercial houseboats are prohibited from Zone 3, may travel through Zones 1 and 4 and may overnight in Zones 2, 5, 6 and 7. Private and commercial houseboats cannot be left unattended on Crown Land. Non-residents of Canada may not overnight on Crown Land in private houseboats.

5. Develop a Crown land camping network to control non-resident campers on Lac Seul;

In 1985 Lac Seul was designated a restricted camping zone. This meant that non-residents of Canada could not camp within half a kilometre of the shore of Lac Seul on Crown land. A number of commercial campsites were established to accommodate non-resident campers on the lake and allocated to the private sector.

A need to review the status of the privatized campsites was identified. The intent to phase out all campsites by end of 1990 season will be discussed here.

6. Control the location and number of commercial boat caches on Lac Seul through the enforcement of the Boat Cache Policy;

Cached boats now require a boat cache sticker if they occupy Crown land. Non-residents of Canada cannot cache boats. Through negotiations, all commercial boat caches were removed from Zone 3 (Vaughan Lake) before July 1, 1985. No additional commercial boat caches are being permitted on Lac Seul. Private residents may continue to cache boats on Crown land in all areas of Lac Seul except Vaughan Lake (Zone 3).

7. Site specific development proposals will be reviewed on an individual basis. Any future disposition of Crown land must be in accordance with the remote recreational character of the lake;

This recommendation was being followed. A need to clarify this recommendation was identified.

8. Access road development in the vicinity of Lac Seul will continue to be restricted;

This recommendation was being followed. A need to clarify this recommendation was identified.

Other concerns expressed at the time the plan was released were:

i. More enforcement should take place on Lac Seul;

A new patrol boat was purchased for enforcement officers. Enforcement efforts have increased 20% over the past few years.

ii. Further fisheries studies should be conducted on Lac Seul;

In April 1985, funding to conduct additional studies on Lac Seul was approved.

iii. A mechanism should be put in place to make it easier to implement new fishing regulations on Lac Seul;

In 1986, Lac Seul became a separate fishing division (Division 30). It is therefore easier to make regulations specific to Lac Seul.

4.2 The Need For A Review

Since the Lac Seul Management Plan was approved in June 1984, a number of different types of development proposals have been submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources for consideration. Some of these proposals dealt with activities that were not permitted in the original plan; others related to matters which had not been clearly addressed in the original plan. It therefore became necessary for the Ministry of Natural Resources to clarify its position on these matters.

To accomplish this, it was necessary to update the fisheries data base used to prepare the Lac Seul Management Plan. In April 1985, funding to conduct additional studies on Lac Seul was approved. The Minister of Natural Resources at that time made a commitment that once the fisheries studies had been completed, the Ministry of Natural Resources would decide if additional development could be accommodated on the lake. If the fisheries studies indicated a surplus of sport fish existed, the plan would be opened for review;

if no surplus of sport fish was identified, no additional development which increased sport fishing and harvest would be permitted.

It was also decided that the public would be fully involved in any review of the Lac Seul Management Plan.

4.3 Fisheries Studies Conducted in 1985

In 1985 a number of fisheries studies were conducted. The main projects were:

Activity	Purpose/Accomplishments
Lake Wide Creel Survey	-estimated harvest and collected angler access information -2,883 anglers interviewed in 1,037 parties
Aerial Boat Counts	-ensured sampling intensity was in proportion to fishing pressure and verified ground counts -8 counts of entire lake
Index Netting	-assessed relative abundance of species -a total of 94 net lifts in Zones 1, 3 and 4
Walleye Tagging	-purpose was to verify spawning areas and establish discreteness of stocks; also to determine harvest rate -1,000 walleye tagged in 2 locations at east end of Lac Seul -300 walleye tagged in 1 location at west end of Lac Seul

4.3.1 Results of the 1985 Fisheries Studies

The most important results of data collected during these studies was the 1985 angler harvest estimates. Table 2 illustrates this

information for walleye and northern pike. It also compares the current harvest situation with the information collected in 1979 that was used to develop the Lac Seul Management Plan.

Harvest is the estimated weight of fish taken by anglers in a given year. The 1985 harvest information for Lac Seul has been calculated from creel census information.

Harvest targets are the predicted maximum levels at which fish may be harvested from Lac Seul without adversely affecting the fish populations. The 1985 harvest targets have been further refined on the basis of water chemistry data and index netting data collected from Zones 1 and 3 in 1985.

In 1985, on a lake-wide basis walleye were being harvested at, or just above a level which Lac Seul can sustain (see Table 2). Zones 3, 4, 6 and 7 showed an overharvest for walleye. Overharvest for pike was occurring in Zone 3 only, but there was a general decline in the numbers of trophy pike (greater than 70 cm) on a lake-wide basis.

Since walleye were being harvested at or just above their target levels, to m tain a high quality sport fishery, it was decided that SPORT FISHING PRESSURE ON LAC SEUL SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INCREASE AT THIS TIME.

NOTE: The weather during the summer of 1985 was atypical i.e. unusually damp and rainy. There was some concern that the results obtained from the creel census may not have provided a true indication of the "normal" angling pressure on the lake. Therefore, it was decided to conduct another creel census on Lac Seul in 1986. These results were not available during the review of the management plan because the creel census was ongoing at that time. This data was analyzed in the fall of 1986. As shown in Table 2, angling pressure for walleye in 1986 was greater than in 1985. THIS RE-INFORCED THE NEED TO RESTRICT ANY DEVELOPMENT ON LAC SEUL WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE HARVEST OF WALLEYE.

Table 2. Harvest and Harvest Targets for Lac Seul Walleye and Pike (kg)

WALLEYE

	Lac Seul Plan 1979		1985		1986
Zone	Harvest Target*	Harvest	Harvest Target*	Harvest	Harvest
1	29,454	18,457	21,439	20,752	26,712
2	29,708	19,224	33,977	12,414	10,585
3	3,753	14,213	12,156	26,807	31,214
4	15,156	21,068	17,134	19,730	26,850
5	5,818	5,733	6,500	6,585	9,693
6	11,833	17,754	13,707	31,370	27,906
7	14,280	5,366	15,586	24,413	27,070
TOTAL	110,002	101,815	120,499	142,071	160,030

NORTHERN PIKE

	Lac Seul Plan 1979		1985		1986
Zone	Harvest Target*	Harvest	Harvest Target*	Harvest	Harvest
1	17,108	52,219	29,177	26,939	21,637
2	17,139	9,534	30,057	6,627	8,669
3	2,165	5,147	3,585	6,944	6,332
4	8,744	18,298	15,157	10,955	12,625
5	3,357	3,496	5,750	5,230	1,549
6	6,827	5,096	12,125	9,595	6,514
7	8,238	1,281	13,788	11,452	13,524
TOTAL	63,578	95,071	109,639	77,742	70,850

*Harvest targets are the maximum levels at which MNR predict fish may be harvested from a lake without adversely affecting fish populations.

Note: In 1985 walleye were overharvested in Zones 3, 4, 6 and 7. Pike were overharvested in Zone 3.

In 1986 walleye were overharvested in Zones 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. There was no overharvest of pike in any zone.

4.4 Public Participation Program-1986

The results of the 1985 fisheries studies indicated that walleye were being harvested at or just above their target harvest levels in all management zones on Lac Seul except Zone 2. Ministry of Natural Resources staff, therefore, concluded that is was not appropriate to allow any additional development on Lac Seul that would increase the harvest of sport fish. Ministry of Natural Resources staff also thought that it was necessary to adopt additional management measures to protect the high quality sport fishery on Lac Seul.

A public consultation program was set up to discuss with the public the matters which had not been clearly addressed in the original plan and to select the additional management measures that should be implemented.

4.4.1 Program Design

During the month of April, 1986, the Ministry of Natural Resources sent out an information package concerning the Lac Seul Management Plan. This package contained:

-information on the fisheries studies that were conducted on Lac Seul during 1985;
-a series of new recommendations that were developed as a result of the findings of the fisheries studies;
-a questionnaire which asked for comments regarding the new recommendations.

In addition, open houses were held in Sioux Lookout, Hudson and Ear Falls during the latter part of April, 1986, and several meetings were held with special interest groups. At the open houses the public had an opportunity to review the proposed changes to the Lac Seul Plan and discuss their concerns with MNR staff. People were also invited to submit a questionnaire outlining their concerns.

Meetings were held with the Ear Falls-Perrault Falls Tourist Outfitters Association, The Township of Ear Falls Council, The Sioux

Lookout-Hudson Tourist Outfitters Association and the Lac Seul Band Council to discuss the findings of the fisheries studies, to explain the proposed recommendations and listen to concerns regarding these recommendations. A Ministry of Natural Resources staff member also attended a meeting of the Sioux Lookout and Area Planning Board to explain the study results and proposed recommendations.

The public input received was analyzed and the results of this analysis appear in Appendix C. As a result of the feedback that was received, Ministry of Natural Resources staff developed a set of recommendations that were to be incorporated into the Lac Seul Management Plan.

A second information package, containing this set of recommendations was sent out to the public in September 1986. Included in this package were two recommendations that had been developed as a result of the public and internal review. They had not previously been presented to the public and this fact was brought to the public's attention. Only two responses were received in regard to the proposed set of recommendations and both responses concerned the recommendation on Prescribed Burning.

4.5 Additional Recommendations

On December 3, 1986, Senior Ministry staff from the Northwestern Region and the Sioux Lookout District Manager met with the Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Vincent Kerrio, to present the findings of the 1985 fisheries studies, the results of the 1986 public participation program and the recommendations they were proposing to incorporate into the Lac Seul Management Plan.

Listed below are the recommendations that received approval. The rationale for selecting these recommendations is found in the Questionnaire Analysis in Appendix C.

4.5.1 Fish Sanctuaries

Implement, by means of a variation order, a winter fish sanctuary on Vaughan Lake (Zone 3) extending from December 1 through to the opening of the walleye season (3rd Saturday in May), starting in December 1986.

Extend the fish sanctuary on Vaughan Lake from the third Saturday in May to June 5 inclusive. The extension is to be in place for the 1988 fishing season.

4.5.2 Slot Size Limits

Conduct an information program that explains the concept behind slot size limits and it's potential as a walleye management tool for Lac Seul during the summer of 1987. (See Appendix D for a discussion on the proposed walleye slot size limit for Lac Seul).

During February of 1988, MNR distributed a questionnaire on slot size limites to previous plan participants and the general public. A majority of respondents were in favour of implementing slot size limits on Lac Seul. MNR has therefore recommended that this legislation change be implemented for the 1989 angling season.

4.5.3 Houseboats

Incorporate the Sioux Lookout District's procedure to control commercial houseboats into the Lac Seul Management Plan.

Incorporate the Northwest Region's procedure concerning private houseboats into the Lac Seul Management Plan. (See Section 5.1 and 5.2 for the procedures concerning commercial and private houseboats.)

4.5.4 Development Proposals on Crown Land

Cottaging on Crown land on Lac Seul will be maintained at existing levels.

The number of privatized campsites on Lac Seul will be reduced from ten to nine for the 1988 operating season. These nine sites will be

closed down at the end of the 1990 operating season.

The number of commercial boat caches on Lac Seul will be maintained at existing levels.

Additional private boat caches will be permitted in all areas of Lac Seul except Vaughan Lake (Zone 3).

Commercial water lots will be made available on Lac Seul only to provide essential services to existing operations or new developments which do not increase sport fishing pressure.

Restricted outpost camps, for the purposes of moose or bear hunting will not be permitted on Crown land on Lac Seul.

All requests for Crown land will be treated on an individual basis. These requests will be processed using the procedure for evaluating Crown land development proposals on Lac Seul. (See Section 5.3 for Northwestern Region's procedure for evaluating Crown land development proposals on Lac Seul.)

4.5.5 Conversion of Existing Tourism Facilities

Tourist operators will not be allowed to convert cabin, lodge or outpost beds to houseboat operations.

4.5.6 Access Points

Existing access points, both official and unofficial, will be identified in the Lac Seul Plan (see Map # 2). Where new unauthorized access to the lake is created on Crown land, steps will be taken immediately to remove it.

4.5.7 Access Roads

Incorporate the access road procedure for Lac Seul into the Lac Seul Management Plan.

In situations where it becomes necessary to construct a primary or secondary road across a water body leading to the lake or within

650 metres of the lake, the road proposal will be carefully reviewed and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposal. (See Section 5.4 for Access Road Procedure for Lac Seul.)

4.5.8 Ice Roads

Proposals to construct ice roads across Lac Seul will be reviewed on a case by case basis. All proposals must outline what steps are being taken to minimize both pollution and unauthorized access to the lake. The public will have an opportunity to review any specific proposals to construct ice roads across Lac Seul.

4.5.9 Plan Review

That the Lac Seul Plan be reviewed when the general review of the District Fisheries Management Plan takes place and that this review provide an opportunity for the general public to participate.

Where, in the opinion of the Sioux Lookout District Manager, it is necessary to review specific portions of the Lac Seul Plan prior to the review of the Fisheries Management Plan, he shall notify the public of his intention to review portions of the plan.

4.5.10 Revision of Division Boundary

Revise boundary of Division 30 in the Ontario Fisheries Regulations to ensure that the small water bodies directly accessible from Lac Seul via streams and creeks (with the exception of Williams Lake) are included within this Division.

4.5.11 Prescribed Burning

That timber harvesting be permitted to occur on Lac Seul within the 120 metre Area of Concern at selected locations which are planned as prescribed burns.

That the public and other government agencies have an opportunity to comment upon the harvest/prescribed burn proposals during the review of the Timber Management Plan.

5.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES

SECTION FIVE - DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES

5.1 Procedure for Commercial Houseboats

Fourteen commercial houseboats are authorized to provide overnight accommodation to non-residents on Lac Seul.

No additional authority will be granted to provide overnight accommodation in houseboats to non-residents on Lac Seul.

Houseboats will be authorized by Land Use Permits. The permit will authorize:

-which zones houseboats may overnight in;
-which zones houseboats may travel through;
-which zones prohibit houseboats.

5.2 Procedure for Private Houseboats

When occupied by residents of Canada, private houseboats will be allowed to occupy Crown land sites on Lac Seul for up to 21 days.

When not in use (i.e. unoccupied) resident houseboats must be store at "private sites". Private sites include private and commercial Land Use Permit sites, private land and commercial water lots.

Non-residents of Canada may use resident houseboats on a day-use basis only.

5.3 Procedure for Evaluating Crown Land Development Proposals on Lac Seul

When a request for Crown land is received, the District Manager in the District where the land being applied for is situated will:

a) meet with a representative from the Ministry of Tourism and and Recreation and the applicant to outline the Ministry of

Natural Resources concerns regarding development which will impact on the sport fishery;

b) explore alternatives with MTR representative and applicant:
-availability of private land
-Crown land without water frontage
-redesign layout of present holdings;

c) verify that the intended use of Crown land will not impact upon the sport fishery, then forward the proposal to the Sioux Lookout District Manager for monitoring compliance with the Lac Seul Management Plan;

d) initiate a contractual agreement with the applicant to the effect that the applicant will not develop facilities that create an increase in sports fishing pressure;

e) determine the necessity of submitting architectural or engineering stamp approved site plans and construction working drawings;

f) prepare the Crown Lease or Land Use ermit with conditions of contract and completion of stamped approved plans (if required) forming part of either document.

5.4 Access Road Procedure-Lac Seul

1. Access road development within the vicinity of Lac Seul will continue to be strictly controlled in an attempt to maintain the remote recreational character of the lake and to prevent additional stress being placed on the lakes fisheries.

2. As a general position, the construction of primary and secondary roads within 650 metres of Lac Seul will be restricted. However, in situations where it becomes necessary to construct a primary or secondary road across a water body leading to the lake or within 650 metres of the lake, the road proposal will be carefully reveiwed and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposal.

3. Proposals to construct ice roads across Lac Seul will be reviewed on a case by case basis. All proposals must outline what steps are being taken to minimize both pollution and unauthorized access to the lake. The public will have an opportunity to review any specific proposals to construct ice roads across Lac Seul.

4. For any tertiary or winter roads constructed, the following conditions will apply:

   a) roads proposed to be developed in any season must be accurately mapped in the annual work schedule that is submitted as part of the Timber Management Plan.
   b) roads must pass through a "NATURAL TRAP" where, in the opinion of the Ministry of Natural Resources District Manager, access will be prevented upon cessation of timber harvesting operations.
   c) more than one "TRAP" may be required and/or the removal of a major crossing installation BEYOND the 650 metre limit.
   d) to validate road locations, any or all of the proposed roads must be field checked prior to construction in the presence of company personnel and prior to District Manager's approval.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

AREAS OF CONCERN

An Area of Concern* will begin its evolution in the Timber Management Plan as a "preliminary area of concern," defined as a geographical area of value to non-timber users or users which could be affected by forestry operations, and which may require modifications to those operations. Such areas will usually be identified in broad terms as specific lakeshores, travel corridors, or other features noted by the public or in various resource inventories as having a special value. At the plan of operations stage, these areas will be investigated further, with any confirmed values become "specific areas of concern." In this process, some of the previously identified areas of concern may be eliminated from, and some new areas may be added to, the updated Timber Management Plan (due, for example, to the earlier data being incorrect, the occurrence of a fire, the establishment of a new tourist operation, changes in fishery management objectives, or other valid reasons).

The identification of a specific area of concern requires further evaluation before any logging operations can be planned. The evaluation becomes in effect a decision on such operations to be made from four choices:

- make provisions regarding access to the resources,

- implement modified operations,

- establish a reserve (which prohibits any logging), and/or

- select normal (unmodified) operations.

The first and second options should be chosen if the available information establishes clearly that the value will be harmed by uncontrolled access or normal logging practices. The third option should be selected if either

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* Replaces previously used terms such as "forest reserve", "buffer" and "modified management area"

the information or the possible impact requires further study, or if any of the other options will unacceptably diminish the value. The fourth option should be selected if the value is such that it will not be harmed by normal logging practices, including development of access roads.

APPENDIX B

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES
LAC SEUL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Zone 1

Is there a need to adopt measures to adjust harvest pressure in this zone?

Yes: 17 No: 13

What Should Be Done?

Establish fish sanctuaries in specific areas.
Reduce daily limits for Walleye.
Reduce limit for Northern Pike.
No non-resident camping, or at least control it.
Zone is a priority for future work programs.

Zone 2

Should MNR encourage more use in this zone?

Yes: 24 No: 13

Strategies That Should Be Adopted:

Shift commercial Walleye quota from Zone 6 to Zone 2.
Encourage houseboat operators to use this zone.
Permit non-resident Crown land camping in selected areas.
Relocate boat caches from overharvested zones into Zone 2.

Comments

If too many users are relocated to Zone 2 you could be creating overharvest problems in this zone.
This area contains large open areas. May be difficult to encourage additional use in this zone. Area may be more suited to commercial fishing.
Establish designated campsites. Otherwise non-residents will crowd eastern boundary of this zone.
Improve public access at Williams Bay.

Zone 3

Strategies That Should Be Adopted:

Prohibit non-resident camping on Crown land.	25
Discourage houseboat use in this zone.	20
Eliminate or reduce boat caches.	25
Establish a fish sanctuary to create a shorter season.	15
Reduction in creel limit.	12
Reduce number or capacity of outpost camps.	8

Comments

Non-resident camping is minimal. (However, if banned from other areas they could crowd into Zone 3, if it's left open). This area is easy to sign and control.

Eliminate charter boats.

Restrict Vaughan Lake to artificial bait only.

Restrict landings of commercial and private aircraft.

Carry out a fish tagging program in this zone.

Zone 4

Strategies That Should Be Adopted:

Prohibit non-resident Crown land camping.	26
Reduction of boat caches.	19
Discourage houseboat use.	17
Establish a fish sanctuary in selected areas of zone.	14

Comments

Limit the number of boat caches each operator can have.

Eliminate the boat caches.

Limit the number of houseboats. Control their locations.

This area should be for local residents.

Consider a Walleye limit for houseboats.

Protect any spawning areas in this zone.

Commercial fishing for Whitefish should be permitted.

Zone 5

Is there a need to adjust harvest pressure in this zone?

Yes: 20 No: 9

Strategies That Should Be Adopted:

Limit non-resident Crown land camping to specific sites.	11
Reduce boat caches.	3
Reduce creel limit.	3

Comments

There is heavy non-resident camping in Zone 5, but most people fish Zone 6.

This area should be for local residents.

Carry out fish tagging program.

Commercial fishing of Whitefish should be permitted.

Zone 6

Strategies That Should Be Adopted:

Shift commercial Walleye quota to Zone 2.	24
Prohibit non-resident Crown land camping.	19
Establish a fish sanctuary in selected areas of zone.	13
Reduce or eliminate boat caches.	10
Reduce outpost camp numbers or capacities.	10
Control location and/or number of houseboats.	7

Comments

Control the location and number of houseboats in this zone.

Establish a fish limit for boats - i.e. 18 Walleye per boat.

Allow commercial fishing for Whitefish only; increase the Whitefish quota.

Eliminate the use of gill nets for Walleye.

Create a sanctuary at the mouth of the Vermilion River where it empties into Scaler Lake.

More enforcement is needed in this zone.

Ministry of Natural Resources

Ontario

Box 309
Sioux Lookout, Ontario
P0V 2T0

September 5, 1986

Dear Sir/Madam:

During the month of April 1986, the Ministry of Natural Resources sent out an information package concerning the Lac Seul Management Plan. This package contained:

- information on the fisheries studies that were conducted on Lac Seul during 1985;
- a series of new recommendations that were developed as a result of the findings of the fisheries studies;
- a questionnaire which asked for comments regarding the new recommendations.

In addition, Open Houses were held in Sioux Lookout, Hudson and Ear Falls during the latter part of April, 1986, and several meetings were held with special interest groups. At the Open Houses the public had an opportunity to review the proposed changes to the Lac Seul Plan and discuss their concerns with MNR staff. People were also invited to submit a questionnaire outlining their concerns.

The public input that we received has now been analyzed and I have enclosed a copy of the questionnaire analysis. I invite you to review this information carefully as it includes the set of recommendations that we are proposing to incorporate into the Lac Seul Management Plan. I also wish to draw your attention to Section II of the attached report (Page 11). This section contains two recommendations that were developed as a result of the public review. Therefore you will not have had a previous opportunity to comment on them.

If you have any concerns or comments regarding any of the recommendations, please contact either myself or Rick Forster at this office by October 6, 1986.

Yours very truly,

J. K. Young, District Manager
Sioux Lookout District
(807)-737-1140

LAC SEUL MANAGEMENT PLAN

1986 Review

QUESTIONNAIRE ANALYSIS

Number of Questionnaires Returned: 68

In addition, a petition, submitted on behalf of people associated with the sawmill in Hudson. One hundred and thirteen signatures appeared on the petition.

This analysis is divided into two sections. In Section I, for each of the questions posed there is a breakdown of the responses received, a summary highlighting the main thoughts or concerns expressed, and finally the specific recommendation or recommendations that the Ministry of Natural Resources is putting forward as a result of the input received. Section II contains information relating to input received during the review of the Lac Seul Management Plan. The recommendations that appear in this Section were developed as a result of the public review. Therefore, the public has not had a previous opportunity to comment on them.

Not all respondents answered every question.

Code for Respondent Type

Ind.	- Individual
T.O.	- Tourist Outfitter
T.O. Ass'n	- Tourist Outfitter Association
Other	- Includes Ear Falls Council, Sioux Lookout Chamber of Commerce, Sioux Lookout and Area Planning Board, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (Zone 1), and Dryden and District Conservation Club.
Pet.	- Petition

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS REGARDING THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD, PLEASE CONTACT J. K. YOUNG, DISTRICT MANAGER, OR RICK FORSTER, MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, BOX 309, SIOUX LOOKOUT, ONTARIO P0V 2T0 (807)-737-1140 BY OCTOBER 3, 1986.

SECTION I - QUESTION ANALYSIS

Question 1

The following additional fisheries measures should be taken on Vaughan Lake (Zone 3):

Step 1 Implementation of a winter fish sanctuary on Vaughan Lake extending from December 1 through to the opening of the walleye season (3rd Saturday in May).

Agree	61	37 Ind.; 16 T.O.; 2 T.O. Ass'n; 6 Other
Disagree	5	2 T.O.; 3 Ind.
Undecided	1	1 T.O.
	67	

There was widespread support for Step 1 of this recommendation. Most people who disagreed felt that Ontario residents who fish during the winter were being discriminated against in order that tourists who fish only during the summer could benefit.

RECOMMENDATION

Implement, by means of a variation order, a winter fish sanctuary on Vaughan Lake (Zone 3) extending from December 1 through to the opening of the walleye season (3rd Saturday in May), starting in December, 1986.

Step 2 Fishing in Vaughan Lake should not be allowed from the opening of walleye season up to June 21st, to offer further protection to walleye and pike populations.

Agree	46	32 Ind.; 9 T.O.; 5 Other
Disagree	15	7 Ind.; 6 T.O.; 2 T.O. Ass'n
Undecided	7	3 Ind.; 3 T.O.; 1 Other
	68	

There was considerable support for this step of the recommendation concerning Vaughan Lake. However both tourist outfitter associations were opposed to the length of the proposed closure and expressed the following concerns:

- the bulk of tourism business in this area occurs from the opening of walleye season until mid-summer. A closure which lasted until June 21 would cut too deeply into their operation. A closure which lasted until June 1 would be more acceptable.

- anglers who traditionally fish in Vaughan Lake would be displaced to other areas of lake, such as McKenzie Bay and Broad and Sunlight Lakes. This would cause the quality of fishing in these areas to deteriorate.

Several other people who disagreed with Step 2 stated that if the length of the closure was shortened to the first Saturday in June, they would look upon this proposal more favourably.

RECOMMENDATION

Extend the fish sanctuary on Vaughan Lake from the third Saturday in May to June 05 inclusive. The extension is to be in place for the 1988 fishing season.

Question 2

I believe that the Ministry should pursue the idea of implementing slot size limits (18" - 21") on Lac Seul for the 1988 fishing season.

Agree	37	22 Ind.; 10 T.O.; 2 T.O. Ass'n; 3 Other
Disagree	26	15 Ind.; 8 T.O.; 3 Other
Undecided	5	4 Ind.; 1 T.O.
	68	

Support for this recommendation was split, as is evident from the responses received. However, much of the disagreement centred around the following concerns:

- slot size limits would be difficult to enforce;
- it would be inconvenient to have to transport fish "in the round";
- the potential waste of fish "in the slot" that are hooked badly and would eventually die if released;
- the fear that the non-resident tourist would go elsewhere if he could not keep fish that are in the slot size;
- the need for more proof to illustrate that this technique will accomplish what MNR says it will.

Several people felt the MNR should wait and see how the measures that have already been implemented and the other proposals currently being considered work before introducing the slot size concept. They also felt more research was needed.

There were several suggestions to advertise the importance of a fish "in the slot" and encourage anglers to return the fish on a voluntary basis.

RECOMMENDATION

Conduct an information program that explains the concept behind slot size limits and their potential as a walleye management tool for Lac Seul during the summer of 1987.

Monitor public reaction to the slot size information program. If there is a strong degree of public support, consider the implementation of slot sizes at a later date.

Question 3

I feel that the Ministry should consider the following additional measures in order to restrict the sport fish harvest on Lac Seul:

The Ministry received a variety of comments from the public. These comments have been carefully reviewed and they have been taken into consideration during the development of the final recommendations that are to be incorporated into the Lac Seul Plan. All comments that have been received will be retained on file - some ideas may be considered for implementation in the future.

Question 4

The Ministry approach to control commercial houseboats should be incorporated in the Lac Seul Plan.

Agree	58	36 Ind.; 15 T.O.; 2 T.O. Ass'n; 5 Other
Disagree	8	4 Ind.; 3 T.O.; 1 Other
Undecided	2	1 Ind.; 1 T.O.
	68	

There was widespread support for this recommendation. Many of the respondents felt that the approach MNR was taking did not go far enough. Some people felt that houseboats should be banned from Lac Seul because they detracted from the "remote character" of the lake. Others were worried about possible pollution problems regarding holding tanks, etc. There were some people who felt MNR should exercise more control over where houseboats could anchor overnight. Many people felt that specific regulations for houseboats were needed.

There were a small number of people who felt that MNR should allow more commercial houseboats to operate on the lake.

Procedure for Commercial Houseboats

Fourteen commercial houseboats are authorized to provide overnight accommodation to non-residents on Lac Seul.

No additional authority will be granted to provide overnight accommodation in houseboats to non-residents on Lac Seul.

Houseboats will be authorized by Land Use Permit. The permit will authorize:

- which zones houseboats may overnight in,
- which zones houseboats may travel through,
- which zones prohibit houseboats.

RECOMMENDATION

Incorporate MNR's procedure to control commercial houseboats into the Lac Seul Management Plan.

Question 5

The Lac Seul Plan should be amended to reflect the Ministry procedure concerning private houseboats.

Agree	45	27 Ind.; 12 T.O.; 2 T.O. Ass'n; 4 Other
Disagree	18	12 Ind.; 5 T.O.; 1 Other
Undecided	4	2 Ind.; 1 T.O.; 1 Other
	67	

There was considerable support for this recommendation. Many people who supported this recommendation stated that the time limit for houseboats to occupy Crown land should not exceed 21 days and several people felt that the length of time should be reduced to 14 days. Several people felt that one place should be established where houseboats could be anchored when left unattended. One respondent was concerned about the pollution problem that could occur if holding tanks were pumped out on the lake.

Several of the people who disagreed with this recommendation felt that as long as a houseboat did not remain at a particular location indefinitely, there was no real problem.

Procedure for Private Houseboats

When occupied by residents of Canada, private houseboats will be allowed to occupy Crown land sit s on Lac Seul for up to 21 days.

When not in use (i.e. unoccupied), resident houseboats must be stored at "private sites". Private sites include private and commercial Land Use Permit sites, private land and commercial water lots.

Non-residents of Canada may use resident houseboats on a day use basis only.

RECOMMENDATION

Incorporate the Northwest Region's procedure concerning private houseboats into the Lac Seul Management Plan.

Question 6

No further development that will increase the stress on the sport fishery should be permitted on Crown land within 2 kilometres of Lac Seul.

Agree	54	33 Ind.; 15 T.O.; 2 T.O. Ass'n; 4 Other
Disagree	10	7 Ind.; 2 Other; 1 Pet.
Undecided	4	1 Ind.; 3 T.O.
	68	

There was widespread support for this recommendation.

Several people who disagreed with this recommendation felt that tourist camp operators should be allowed to upgrade their camps in order to make them more profitable. A few others felt that by not allowing any "new" development it gave the existing operators on the lake a monopoly. It was also felt that this proposal discriminated against Ear Falls and Hudson, while operators in Sioux Lookout and on Perrault Lake and Cedar Lake who were beyond the 2 km zone could increase their camp capacity and place these new guests on Lac Seul.

There were several individuals who felt that some additional remote cottage lots should be made available on Lac Seul. The Ear Falls Township Council also supported this idea, stressing the economic stimulus it would create through the demand for local contractors and building supplies.

The two tourist outfitter associations, fifteen tourist operators and the three hydro corporations who rely on Lac Seul for electrical power production were opposed to allowing additional cottages on the lake. The tourist operators were concerned about the stress that cottages would place on the sport fishery. The hydro corporations were concerned that additional cottages on the lake could create additional conflicts with their operation of Lac Seul as a reservoir for hydro electric energy.

The Ear Falls Council also felt that rather than restricting further development on Lac Seul, the Ministry of Natural Resources should be permitting a wider variety of uses on the lake.

RECOMMENDATION

Cottaging on Crown land on Lac Seul will be maintained at existing levels.

The number of privatized campsites on Lac Seul and the overall capacity (120 persons maximum) will be maintained at the existing level.

The number of commercial boat caches on Lac Seul will be maintained at existing levels.

Additional private boat caches will be permitted in all areas of Lac Seul except Vaughan Lake (Zone 3).

Commercial water lots will be made available on Lac Seul only to provide essential services to existing operations or new developments which do not increase sport fishing pressure.

Restricted outpost camps, for the purposes of moose or bear hunting, will not be permitted on Crown land on Lac Seul.

Question 7

The Ministry should review all development proposals on a case-by-case basis and allow only those proposals that will not put futher stress on the sport fishery.

Agree	55	35 Ind.; 15 T.O.; 2 T.O. Ass'n; 3 Other
Disagree	12	6 Ind.; 4 T.O.; 3 Other
Undecided	1	1 Ind.
	68	

There was widespread support for this recommendation. One concern that was expressed was the possibility of entrepreneurs attempting to minimize the effect that their proposals would have on the sport fishery. It was emphasized that the main attraction to this area was a high quality sport fishery and a high quality wilderness setting, and any development that appeared to offer something different than this should be reviewed very carefully.

Several people who disagreed stated that this recommendation was too restrictive and that the Ministry of Natural Resources should be encouraging additional tourism development on Lac Seul.

Procedure for Evaluating Crown Land Development Proposals on Lac Seul

When a request for Crown land is received, the District Manager in the District where the land being applied for is situated will:

a) meet with a representative from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and the applicant to outline the Ministry of Natural Resources concerns regarding development which will impact on the sport fishery;

b) explore alternatives with MTR representative and applicant:
   - availability of private land
   - Crown land without water frontage
   - redesign of existing layout;

c) verify that the intended use of Crown land will not impact upon the sport fishery, then forwards the proposal to the Sioux Lookout District Manager for monitoring compliance with the Lac Seul Management Plan;

d) initiate a contractual agreement with the applicant to the effect that the applicant will not develop facilities that create an increase in sports fishing pressure;

e) determine the necessity of submitting architectural or engineer stamp approved site plans and construction working drawings;

f) prepare the Crown Lease or Land Use Permit with conditions of contract and completion of stamped approved plans (if required) forming part of either document.

RECOMMENDATION

All requests for Crown land will be treated on an individual basis. These requests will be processed using the procedure for evaluating Crown land development proposals on Lac Seul.

Question 8

Tourist Operators should be allowed to change their type of business provided that they do not place additional stress on the sport fishery (i.e. convert from cabins to houseboats, etc.).

Agree	16	7 Ind.; 6 T.O.; 1 T.O. Ass'n; 2 Other
Disagree	46	29 Ind.; 12 T.O.; 1 T.O. Ass'n; 4 Other
Undecided	6	5 Ind.; 1 T.O.
	68	

A large number of people disagreed with this recommendation. Most people felt this would allow for an increase in the number of houseboats on the lake and many people felt that there were already too many of them on the lake. Other concerns about increasing the number of houseboats on the lake were:

- more houseboats would further detract from the remote character of the lake;

- houseboats could very easily anchor over the good walleye holes and render them inaccessible to other anglers;

- the houseboats would be increasing the stress on the sport fishery because people would spend less time travelling back and forth to camp and more time fishing.

RECOMMENDATION

Tourist Operators will not be allowed to convert cabin, lodge or outpost beds to houseboat operations.

Question 9

No new access points (official or unofficial) should be allowed to develop on Lac Seul and any new access that is inadvertently created should be removed immediately.

Agree	56	33 Ind.; 16 T.O.; 2 T.O. Ass'n; 5 Other
Disagree	10	7 Ind.; 1 T.O.; 1 Other; 1 Pet.
Undecided	2	1 Ind.; 1 T.O.
	68	

There was a considerable amount of support for this recommendation. It was suggested, however, that the existing access points be maintained and where necessary that both official and unofficial access points be upgraded to allow local residents and tourists easier access for fishing and camping.

Several people who disagreed stated that since access roads are built with public money, the public should be allowed to use them for gaining access to the lake. It was also felt that the accessing of Lac Seul as a means of transporting timber should be an accepted procedure.

Another comment was that any method of transportation which shortens the distance of timber from the sawmill is economically desirable and serves the basic interests of the hundreds of workers who gain employment in the sawmilling industry.

RECOMMENDATION

Existing access points, both official and unofficial, will be identified in the Lac Seul Plan. Where new unauthorized access to the lake is created on Crown land, steps will be taken immediately to remove it.

Question 10

The access roads procedure for Lac Seul should be included in the Lac Seul Plan.

Agree	56	32 Ind.; 17 T.O.; 2 T.O. Ass'n; 5 Other
Disagree	5	3 Ind.; 1 Other; 1 Pet.
Undecided	8	6 Ind.; 2 T.O.
	69	

There was a considerable amount of support for this recommendation.

Several of those who disagreed felt the access road policy was overly restrictive. It was felt that any policy regarding road access should be flexible enough to consider general location, terrain and topography to assure maximum utilization of available timber.

Access Road Procedure - Lac Seul

1. All roads to be developed in any season must be accurately mapped in the annual work schedule as a proposal.

2. Any road to be constructed within 650 metres of Lac Seul must be of a LOW or WINTER quality.

3. Every road must pass through a "NATURAL TRAP" where, in the opinion of the Ministry District, access will be prevented upon cessation of timber harvesting operations.

4. More than one "TRAP" may be required and/or the removal of a major crossing installation BEYOND the 650 metre limit.

5. To validate road locations, any or all of the proposed roads may be field checked prior to construction in the company of company personnel and prior to District Manager's approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Incorporate the access road procedure for Lac Seul into the Lac Seul Management Plan.

In situations where it becomes necessary to construct a road to Lac Seul across a water body leading to the lake or within 650 metres of the lake, the road proposal will be carefully reviewed and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Question 11

The Ministry should consider permitting the construction of ice roads across Lac Seul, providing the public has an opportunity to comment upon each proposal.

Agree	41	27 Ind.; 7 T.O.; 1 T.O. Ass'n; 5 Other; 1 Pet.
Disagree	22	11 Ind.; 10 T.O.; 1 Other
Undecided	6	3 Ind.; 2 T.O.; 1 T.O. Ass'n
	69	

Support for this recommendation was not as strong as for some of the other recommendations. Some of those who were in favour of it felt that ice roads would lower the cost of hauling wood. Several others stated that they would support ice roads only if they were used strictly for hauling timber.

Some of those people who disagreed with the recommendation felt that the ice road would create more access to the northern side of Lac Seul. Even with natural traps, the concern was that trikes would be

able to gain access to Lac Seul. Other people who disagreed were concerned about log spills, oil spills and garbage.

RECOMMENDATION

Proposals to construct ice roads across Lac Seul will be reviewed on a case by case basis. All proposals must outline what steps are being taken to minimize both pollution and unauthorized access to the lake. The public will have an opportunity to review any specific proposals to construct ice roads across Lac Seul.

Question 12

Planning is a continuous process and must be responsive to changing needs, social values, new information and technology. To accommodate such events the Lac Seul Plan should be reviewed every five years.

Agree	50	32 Ind.; 11 T.O.; 1 T.O. Ass'n; 6 Other
Disagree	16	9 Ind.; 7 T.O.
Undecided	2	1 T.O.; 1 T.O. Ass'n
	68	

There was a considerable amount of support for this recommendation. Most of those people opposed felt that five years was too long an interval between reviews. They felt a review every two or three years was more appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Lac Seul Plan be reviewed every five years, and this review provide an opportunity for the general public to participate.

Where, in the opinion of the Sioux Lookout District Manager, it is necessary to review the Lac Seul Plan prior to the five year review date, he shall notify the public of his intention to review the Plan.

Question 13

Other thoughts, concerns, suggestions regarding the Lac Seul Plan.

The Ministry received a variety of comments from the public. These comments have been carefully reviewed and they have been taken into consideration during the development of the final recommendations that are to be incorporated into the Lac Seul Plan. All comments that have been received will be retained on file.

SECTION II - OTHER CONCERNS

i. Revision of the Boundaries of Division 30

During discussions with members of the public, it was pointed out that the current boundary for Division 30 in the Ontario Fisheries does not include all bodies of water that are directly accessible from Lac Seul. This could therefore result in some problems with enforcing the trophy pike regulation.

RECOMMENDATION

Revise the boundaries of Division 30, in the Ontario Fisheries Regulations, to ensure that the small water bodies directly accessible from Lac Seul via streams and creeks are included within this Division.

ii. Prescribed Burning

During the review of the Lac Seul Management Plan there was discussion on the current status of the use of prescribed fire in potential cutovers near Lac Seul. The Ministry of Natural Resources wishes to selectively burn harvested areas in preparation for regeneration treatments. The major area being considered is in Lac Seul Zones 5 and 6, which is commonly called the Burma operating area. Due to the productivity of the sites and the spruce budworm damage on balsam fir, the use of prescribed fire is an extremely beneficial method of site preparation. In order to facilitate controlled burns, it may be necessary to modify the 120 metre reserve on Lac Seul. In some cases the reserve of standing timber may cause an unwanted hazard during the burning operations. It is therefore suggested that if a prescribed burn plan is developed adjacent to Lac Seul, there may be limited harvesting in hazardous locations within the 120 metre reserve. The public will have an opportunity to comment upon the harvest/burn areas during the review of the Timber Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That timber harvesting be permitted to occur on Lac Seul, within the 120 metre reserve at specific locations which are planned as prescribed burns.

APPENDIX D

THE PROPOSED WALLEYE SLOT SIZE LIMIT FOR LAC SEUL

The walleye slot size limit is a proposed method of managing Lac Seul walleye. A slot size limit means that walleye within a certain length cannot be kept. For example, Lac Seul walleye could not be kept if they were between 45.7 cm (18") and 53.3 cm (21"). Walleye smaller or larger than this prime breeding size would be legal for anglers to keep. Slot size limits such as this protect the majority of spawners while still permitting anglers to possess 6 walleye.

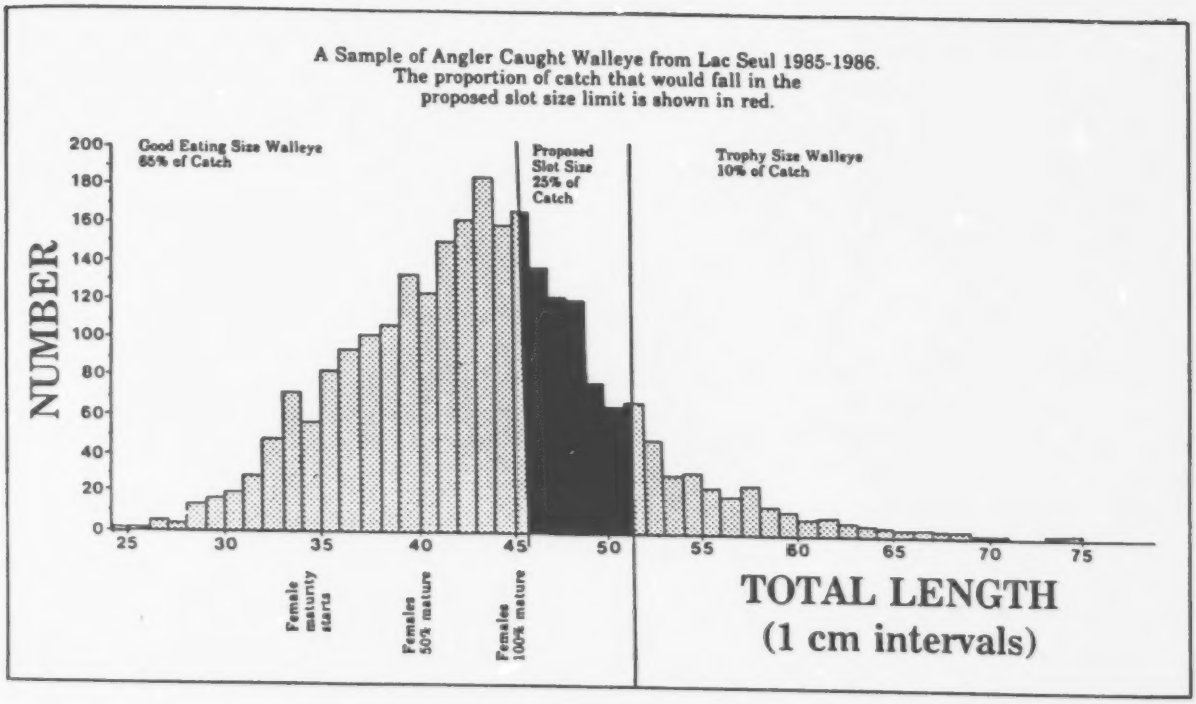
Slot size limits protect walleye with the greatest productive potential. By protecting this portion of the breeding stock more offspring should be produced. Producing more offspring should mean more walleye for anglers.

The slot size limit also could potentially produce more trophy size walleye for anglers to catch. By not harvesting walleye in the slot size more walleye should survive to 53.3 cm (21") and larger resulting in a greater potential to harvest larger fish.

If the walleye slot size limit proposal is adopted, anglers would have to immediately release walleye between 45.7 cm (18") and 53.3 cm (21"). Possession of such fish would be an offence.

While transporting walleye in Division 30, they would have to be in a condition that their total length could be measured. The fish could be gutted and gilled but must remain whole so Conservation Officers could measure and see that no fish are in the slot size limit. Possessing walleye in Division 30 in a condition where their total lengths cannot be determined would be an offence.

The following graph shows a sample of angler caught walleye from 1985 and 1986. Female walleye are fully mature at about 46 cm (18"). Males mature earlier and at a smaller size than females. Of the walleye presently kept by anglers, 25% would fall within the slot size and would have to be returned to the water. This is 1 fish in 4 on average.



From MNR publication 3849. Fishing Lac Seul This Summer? Perhaps You Should Know About the PROPOSED Walleye Slot Size Limit.